(b) The details of Ganja plants destroyed by Narcotics Intelligence Bureau in January, 1993 are as under :—

Places	Area	Potential Yield in Kg.
Poolamalai Vaigai river Palkeni, Aranamnaipudur Korattutheri, Kannimar Odai at Western Ghats	9·5	9,770

(c) Whenever illegal cultivation of Ganja or wild growth of Ganja come to notice, plants are destroyed. In addition to the places mentioned in part (b) above, some places in Tamil Nadu where Ganja plants came to notice in 1993 are :—

(i) Vellimalai reserve forest of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(ii) Varayattypottal & Poolamalai near Arasaradi hill areas of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(iii) Santhankadu & Saralaikadu Edamalaipottu forest area of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(iv) Valliparai hill area reserve forest near varghese estate, Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

(v) Vattakaniparai near Gandhi Gramam of Andipatti Taluk, Madurai district.

These have also been destroyed by officials of the Central Excise Department.

(d) Cultivation of cannabis plant for production of Ganja for any purpose other than medical and scientific purpose has been banned by the Central Government by issue of a notification under Section 8 of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Regular compaigns to locate and destroy Ganja plants are launched and offenders dealt with according to law.

Production of Smack and Heroin

3472. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that smack and heroin are being produced in the country at present in a big way;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is violation of rules in prescribing the area for cultivation of opium in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is a wide difference in its sale price to Government and to private parties;

(d) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a nexus between opium producers, police and the concerned officers;

(e) whether any inquiry has been held in this regard, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps are being taken to plug the loopholes in its cultivation and check the loss of Government revenue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) to (f) There have been some stray cases of manufacture of smack and heroin in the country but the quantity of smack and heroin seized in these cases has been very insignificant. There is nothing to indicate the existence of any kind of nexus between opium producers, police and the concerned officers.

Illegal sale of opium to private parties being a clandestine activity, the price at which opium is sold in such cases cannot be known precisely but it is generally higher than the procurement price fixed by the Government.

Production of licit opium in India is regulated under strict licensing control and supervision by the Central Government. Excess or illicit cultivation of opium is a rarity. Different drug law enforcement agencies keep strict vigil over poppy cultivation and stringent penal measures are taken under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotrophic Substances Act for any violation.

Applications about Economic Reforms

3473. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the President of the International Chamber of Commerce called on the Prime Minister in the last month of December, 1992, to express the industry's concern about the impact of Ayodhya incidence and its aftermath on the pace of economic reforms; and

(b) if so, what precise apprehensions were expressed by the President elect of ICC and what was the Prime Minister's response thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTRY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) The President of International Chamber of Commerce met the Prime Minister on 30th December, 1992. The objective of the meeting was not to express the industry's concern about the impact of Ayodhya incidence and its aftermath on the pace of economic reforms;

(b) No apprehensions were expressed by the President elect of ICC on impact of Ayodhya incidence. The President elect conveyed to the Prime Minister industry's support for continuation of economic reforms in the country.

Smuggling on Rajasthan Border

3474. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the smuggling of a chemical called ascetic anhydride into Pakistan from the Rajasthan border as it fetches enormously a high price being in short supply in Pakistan;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the changing tracks for smuggling in Rajasthan desert;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to intensify the measures in checking the smuggling from Rajasthan border.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) Government are aware of such smuggling.

(b) and (c) Available reports do not indicate any significant change in the tracks for smuggling in Rajasthan desert.

(d) A new Sub-Collectorate of Customs with headquarters at Jodhpur with 5 Customs Divisions and 21 Customs Ranges was created in 1989 for combating smuggling on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border. A Regional Unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and a Sub-Unit have been recently opened at Jaipur and Jodhpur respectively. The Officers of Border Security Force deployed on the Rajasthan-Pakistan border are designated as Customs Officers. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Working of Mahila Nidhi Scheme

3475. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) assisted new 'Mahila Nidhi Scheme'; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Madam. The Government is aware of the Mahila Nidhi Scheme which was initially introduced by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) in July, 1989 and subsequently taken over by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) when it came into existence on 2-4-1990.

(b) Under the Scheme, equity type of assistance is provided to women entrepreneurs to set up new industrial projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakhs under the SSI sector. All new industrial projects in the SSI sector, as also service activities, set up by women entrepreneurs are eligible for assistance. The scheme envisages a debt equity ratio not exceeding 3 : 1 and a minimum promoters contribution of 10% of the project cost. Under the Scheme, seed capital assistance by way of a soft loan is given upto a maximum of 15% of the project cost to meet the gap in equity after taking into account the promoters' own contribution. No